

REMARKS

After entry of the above amendments, the claims pending in the subject application are 1-24. Reconsideration of this application based on the Amendments and Remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

In the initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms that were received with this office action, the U.S. patent references on page 2 were not initialed. The page, however, was signed and dated at the bottom. Also, the reference to United States Patent No. 6,248,225 to Palaika et al. was used in the office action. Therefore, unless indicated otherwise, it is taken that the references were considered based on the signature at the bottom of the page.

RESTRICTION

Restriction was required to one of the following groups under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group	Claims	Description
I	1-24	method of making a cured multilayer coating
II	25	multilayer coating

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-24, without traverse.

35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 4,988,420 to Batzill et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first coating is not fully cured. Support for this amendment can be found in paragraph [0118]. In Batzill '420, the first coating layer is baked, which cures the coating, before the second coating is applied (column 2, lines 28-32). There is no disclosure or suggestion in Batzill '420 of a wet on wet application method. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, and 4-21 are patentable over United States Patent No. 4,988,420 to Batzill et al.

Claims 1-17, 19, and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,178,736 to Richardson.

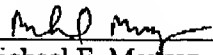
Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first coating is not fully cured. In the Examples in Richardson '736, the first coating layer is cured before the second coating is applied. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Richardson '736 of a wet on wet application method. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-17, 19, and 21-24 are patentable over United States Patent No. 5,178,736 to Richardson.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,248,225 to Palaika et al.

At column 4, lines 50-65 in Palaika '225, the conductivity achieved is based on the amount of electroconductive pigment. This is only one factor to achieve electroconductivity. The electroconductivity is also affected by the degree of cure of the coating. To be electroconductive, the electroconductive particles have to be in close enough proximity to each other to conduct a charge. Curing the coating achieves this by shrinking the coating when water and/or solvents are removed from the coating. While Palaika '225 does state that the first coating is partially cured, there is no disclosure or suggestion of curing the coating to a point that the coating has a conductivity of at least 130 S/cm. Also, as for claim 15, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Palaika '225 of a coating method that can achieve a surface roughness in the cured multilayer coating of 13 μ m or less. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, and 4-21 are patentable over United States Patent No. 6,248,225 to Palaika et al.

In view of the amendments and remarks contained above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the 35 USC §103 rejections, and requests that a Formal Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 1-24. Should the Examiner have any questions about the above remarks, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael F. Morgan, Esq. (Reg. No. 42,906)
(248) 948-2355
BASF Corporation
26701 Telegraph Road
Southfield, MI 48034-2442
Date: May 19, 2004